

**River Valley Charter School
Board of Directors Meeting
Meeting # 271
September 15, 2020 5:00 pm**

In accordance with the Executive Order applying to MA Open Meeting Law, this meeting will be held virtually on Zoom ID: ID: 87646825014 at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting was called to order at 5:07 pm

In attendance

Pam Armstrong
Mark Bishop
Amber Hewett
Erin Bradley Irose
Nina Keery
Alexa MacLachlan
Catherine Martin
Karina Moltz
Greg Noyes
Rebecca Schwer
Erin Seaton
Albert Ting
Anna Wetmore

Absent: Nancy Durkee, Alfred Link, at start of meeting and then joined

Jonnie Lyn Evans
Dan Bouchard
Deb McCrevan

Sheila Spalding
Ali Fields
Ellen (Link?)
Liz Fabel

Public comment:

RVCS Revelation: Ali Fields and Ellen Link

Ali: reports that the return to school has been going very well. Setting is calm and relaxed and kids are happy. After so much anticipation and preparation, it is wonderful to be back.

Vote: motion to approve August minutes

Motion: Mark Bishop
2nd: Nina Keery

- Amendments: not Meadowcrest, but Maple Crest
- No Cathy Martin present

Vote

Yes: All in attendance

No:

Abstain: Alfred Link and Nancy Durkee were not present for vote but joined after)

Pam Armstrong

Mark Bishop

Nancy Durkee

Amber Hewett

Erin Bradley Irose

Nina Keery

Alfred Link

Alexa MacLachlan

Catherine Martin

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Director's Report

Reviewed staffing for FSR programs, and explained how model is working. Emma Shea is leading remote learning for E2. Rebecca Hamel is leading FSR for E1. For E2, trying to set up a remote program that mimics the in-person E2 program, with one week of traditional learning and another of experiential. Rebecca Schwer discussed MS remote program. Students are joining classroom discussions and activities virtually via devices when possible. Jonnie Lyn explained the PD that went into prepping for the return to school. Goal is for the FSR program to serve as a model for what it would look like if the school was forced to go solely remote. If RVCS switches to solely remote, there will be a stronger plan in place than was in place in March. Jonnie Lyn emphasized that community members need to practice safe and healthy habits to make sure that the program continues to run. It's a "universe of cards", and everyone is accountable to each other. Students whose parents are teachers at RVCS are attending full time.

Accountability - annual report went in to state, and was returned for a typo, and omission, and a small error. When the report is returned it will be shared more fully. Academic screening measures for each grade were described.

Facilities - Jonnie Lyn described office changes that have happened to give staff access to fresh air, etc.

Discussion:

Questions were raised about what happens if a student has an extended absence due to illness. School is considering what the approach will be - may vary based on level. A question was raised about the covid response plan - are school closure guidelines issued by DESE? Most likely by the CDC. Board would not have to vote on closure. Jonnie Lyn, Kimberly Putney (nurse) and Dr. March, consulting physician, would all work together on school closure decisions. Decision would not be made by any one person, unless it was a decision from DESE or the state government. Idea was raised that we could review the data graphic each month to look at infection numbers in sending towns. Could Dr. March be an honorary board member? Right now he would be too busy though it would be a nice gesture. Could we offer a flu shot clinic for children? Probably not without their parents present. School could reach out to Walgreens to check.

Finance Committee:

Mark Bishop reviewed the documents (shared in board packet). Key points: state budget has still not been set. 1/12 budget is passed until the annual budget is passed. Annual budget is potentially going to be released in October/November. A lot of uncertainty remains. Tuition projections just came out. Estimated budget included a decrease in foundation rate, but the projections may include an increase. Mark reviewed the cash balance report. The monthly expense rate is around \$300K per month, and the goal is to keep 3 or 4 months of that rate accessible. Tuition payments have been on time, though in the past there has been a delay, which is part of the reason that there's a desire to keep the cash reserves robust. Documents in packet/folder about federal grants that allow the school to have funds for covid-related expenses.

Accountability Committee

Alfred Link reported on Accountability meeting. 19-20 accountability plan was carefully constructed and approved, and administration worked hard on it, but of the 8 newly established goals, 7 could not be met because of covid interruptions. Committee members agree to take the opportunity of this year to do a comprehensive policy review. Committee wants to continue checking in on well being of staff and community. An assessment tool may be released that will be a monthly check-in on teachers, parents, students, to see how everyone is doing.

Administration has been asked to come up with how they will measure curriculum, skill, and engagement levels during

Development Committee:

Alexa is going to be leaving the BOT in the middle of October. She's staying on to bring some cohesion to the work happening in Development Committee. Committee members should reach out to her or to Dan if they have interest in taking over. First Development meeting will be in October. Amazon Smile could be set up to benefit RVCS.

Committee on Trustees

Committee did not meet since the last meeting. Amber Hewett thanked everyone for their input to Director's Review. A reminder was given about the search for an interim vice-chair, who would potentially take over in November if Amber's seat becomes open more permanently.

In typical years, Director's Review would be shared with BOT and voted on in Executive Session. Given the events of the year, and the fact that most BOT members were not on the board during the time period that is being considered, Pam suggests that the Executive Committee will review and approve the Director's Review. A suggestion was made that the BOT members who were on the Board vote on the Review, and new members abstain. Do by-laws say if the BOT has to vote on Review? No, not in detail.

Vote: Motion to adjourn

Made by: Alfred Link

2nd: Erin Bradley Irose

Yes:

No:

Abstain:

6:58 pm Board adjourns